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## **RENEWED CALL TO ELIMINATE ROAD BLOCKS TO EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY**

Employers in the Community Services sector are renewing their call on the Federal Coalition government to reduce the red tape that is tying up the sector and taking the focus away from providing critical community services.

“The compliance burden has real and direct costs on all Community organisations and is a significant inhibitor to the efficient and effective delivery of services. If we are to maintain and indeed grow the level of support the community sector provides to the maintenance of Civil Society, it is imperative that we eliminate the road blocks to delivering that support and in particular, that means the reduction in the level of red-tape across all levels of government”, said Mr John Bouffler, CEWA Executive Director, today.

CEWA welcomes the Federal Coalition government’s plans to implement initiatives to reduce the legislative and reporting requirements for the Community Services sector.

The debate has recently escalated in light of the Government’s announcement to abolish the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC).

“One of the core objectives of the ACNC when it was established in late 2012, was the reduction of red tape, an initiative which was widely supported. However this has been slower than many would have hoped. Indeed, many CEWA members believe there has been an increase in the level of reporting through the requirements to provide an Annual Information Statement, registration and lodging of accounts,” said Mr Bouffler.

If, as the Coalition is proposing, the ACNC is abolished, it is equally imperative that well resourced and suitable alternatives are put in place which will continue to undertake the key regulatory requirements of the sector.

“The proposal is now for a ‘Centre of Excellence’ to be established and in time for this to be transferred to the sector. Again, what sounds interesting at a conceptual level, is yet to be fleshed out in terms of how it will work, what it means and who will run it. This will require effective and meaningful consultation with the sector, and we would encourage the Federal Government to adopt a similar partnership approach to that in place with the WA State Government and the WA Community Services sector.

“We remain fully supportive of Community Sector organisations being open, accountable and transparent. Surveys show that the broader Australian community has an extremely high degree of confidence in the Community Sector and there continues to be significant support for the outstanding work undertaken across so many areas to assist those who are less fortunate” said Mr Bouffler.

### **Community Employers WA (CEWA)**

CEWA is a registered Employer Organisation with the Industrial Relations Commission of Western Australia, and represents non-government, not-for-profit employers in the Community Services sector of Western Australia. CEWA has 120 members comprising many of the largest and smaller Community Services sector employers in WA, who in turn employ in excess of 10,000 staff and are supported by over 10,000 volunteers.

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